

UNCLASSIFIED

Saigon A-
Encl. No. 1

STATEMENT OF DEPUTY TRAN NGOC CHAU CONCERNING
THE CASE OF VC CAPTAIN TRAN NGOC HIEN

In order to throw light on the opinion held by the public concerning the family ties between me and VC Captain Tran Ngoc Hien as reported by the press in recent days, I respectfully clarify the following points:

1. I have an older brother named Tran Ngoc Hien who in 1949 held several functions with the rank of Colonel in the National Guard Army (Quan Doi Ve Quoc Doan). I have not met with VC Captain Tran Ngoc Hien since his arrest, therefore I cannot yet confirm whether my brother and Captain Hien are the same person.

2. Even if VC Captain Tran Ngoc Hien is my older brother, this case is not a rare one.

Before my case (and at present) there have been several cases in which high ranking personages in the South have had brothers serving in the Communist ranks.

But this is not the reason that they lack anti-Communist spirit and diminish their activities for the nation.

The cases of General Duong Van Minh and Colonel Pham Ngoc Thao, etc. prove this point.

3. My anti-Communist spirit has been clearly demonstrated in the awards, such as the Purple Heart, the Gallantry Cross and the National Order, granted to me during 18 years of military service in the National Army.

I am proud to declare that I have never committed any act which may be considered a betrayal of my comrades-in-arms.

4. My advocacy of a restoration of peace (which I was the first to promote at the National Assembly) through direct peace talks between the Republic of Vietnam, North Vietnam, and the National Liberation Front, is always based on respect for the Constitution of the Republic of Vietnam. If I proposed in the past that members of the National Liberation Front be proportionally represented as a minority in popularly elected bodies, I also insisted that the Viet Cong must integrate their armed forces into the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam.

For this reason, there has never been any question of my advocating coalition, defeatism or surrender.

5. I criticize the mistakes committed by the Government, but always with the purpose of building a free and progressive form of government.

I also criticized the United States, severely several times, but this also was aimed at safeguarding the sovereignty and independence of the nation.

UNCLASSIFIED

I earnestly defended the victims of injustice, and I did it without religious, party, ethnic or regional discrimination.

I also criticized our inefficiency and that of the United States, but I did not spare my words when I criticized the weakness and cruelty of the Communists.

The minutes of the National Assembly are sufficient to prove my impartial, independent, and nationalistic spirit.

6. In a spirit of respect for freedom and justice, I propose the retrial of lawyer Truong Dinh Dzu's case if the content of his past statements coincide with the recent announcement of President Nguyen Van Thieu.

7. I publicly announced in the National Assembly and in the press my nationalist stand, and declared that I would never accept Communism, nor would I ever accept subordination to foreigners.

I am ready to face factual and serious criticism resulting from a difference of political views, as well as distortions or libel resulting from personal hatred.

I only wish that my colleagues at the Lower House and the readers would weigh the merits of those persons who judge me, before assessing the content of their judgments.

8. Up to now, no government agency or official has threatened me or caused difficulty for me because of my activities, my statements, or my family ties with my brother Tran Ngoc Hien.

Saigon, April 21, 1969
Deputy Tran Ngoc Chau